

65th Congress of the Liga medicorum internationalis homoeopathica
Redondo Beach, California, 18-22 May 2010

200 years „Organon of Medicine“ - A comparative view on its six editions (1810-1842)

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19 May 2010



Introduction

- 1790 Hahnemann's experiment with Peruvian bark
- 1796 Principles of drug proving and „similia similibus“
- 1807 The term „homeopathic“
- 1810 *Organon of rational therapeutics*
„Homeopathy“, „similia similibus curentur“
- 1819-1842: *Organon of the art of healing* (editions 2-6)

Historical perspectives

- The motive to heal people: a perennial challenge
- Concepts, terms, and theories: varying widely
- Homeopathy emerged in 18th/19th century Germany
- Political, socio-economic, and intellectual background
- The *Organon of rational therapeutics*:
 - just a transitional stage within the development of homeopathy

Philosophical perspectives

- Paradox: Language, logic, and concepts
 - allow humans to communicate their thoughts to others
 - limit the content of what is communicable at all
- Discoveries of something new and unheard-of:
difficult – if not impossible – to communicate
by means of common language, logic, and concepts
- The need (of Hahnemann) to comply with
the linguistic, logical, and conceptual framework
of (his) contemporary professional colleagues

Early writings of Hahnemann

- 1790 The „dawn“ of homeopathy
- 1796 Drug provings, similia similibus, specifics, causal and phenomenologic approach
- 1797,1800,1801: The term „dynamic“ vs. chemical, mechanic, atomic, material
- 1801 „Fixed diseases“, „quite invariable miasms“
- 1805 *Therapeutics of experience*: stimulus theory, semiotic theory, teleological concepts
- 1807 „Homeopathic“, „most rational way“, „truth“
- 1808 „Law of cure“, striving for recognition
- 1809 New ideal: „therapeutics“; no more: „art of healing“!

The six editions of the Organon (1-3)

- 1810 First edition: *Organon of rational therapeutics*
„Homeopathy“, „similia similibus curentur“,
„rationally curing“; „law of cure“, „law of nature“, „laws of
rational therapeutics“, „homeopathic causal connections“;
- 1813 „Laws“, „mathematical certainty“ „in all cases“
- 1819 Second edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
The „art of healing“ as a „pure science of experience“,
„aude sapere“; diseases as „spiritual detunements of our
life in feelings and activities“; „law of nature“
- 1824 Third edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
Sycosis besides psora and syphilis, „antipsoric remedy“

The six editions of the Organon (4-6)

- 1828 *The Chronic Diseases*
Infection with a chronic miasm (psora, syphilis, sycosis);
lifelong persistence: (almost) everybody is chronically ill!
- 1829 Forth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
The „unreasonable life-force“: its „efforts are itself illness“;
hence: „art of healing“ requires „higher human spirit“;
diseases as „detunements of the life-force“
- 1833 Fifth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
Delimitation against „isopathy, „bastard-homeopaths“, etc.;
30c as standard dose; „only true art of healing“
- 1842 Sixth edition: *Organon of the art of healing*
Q-potencies, mesmerism, magnet, massages, baths

Conclusion and Outlook

- The *Organon of rational therapeutics* (1810):
 - neither the beginning of homeopathic practice
 - nor the endpoint of its development
- It is mainly based on concepts that were developed and published before (1790-1810)
- The six editions reflect a further development, dependent on (temporary) social and intellectual conditions (1810-1842)
- They are connected by a powerful (invisible) thread: Hahnemann's basic idea of the art of healing
- The challenge remains: to translate this into contemporary language and concepts